

was Father's Day, and this year's observance compels more reflection than ever.

Any sensible American, especially in the wake of April's Columbine massacre, has to be concerned about the status of our nation's youth. Children bereft of a fully engaged father suffer perilous disadvantage.

The magnitude of the anomaly shouldn't surprise anyone. Clerics and social scientists have long warned of the debilitating trends associated with divorce and single-parent households. Few families overcome the dysfunction of children disconnected from their fathers.

The cost is enormous. Seventy percent of men in prison, and an equal percentage of juveniles in long-term detention facilities, grew up in fatherless homes. Children living without a father are more likely to have trouble in school, become an unwed parent or involved with gangs or drugs.

Nor are girls immune. Girls whose parents divorce may grow up deprived not experiencing the day-to-day interaction with an attentive, caring and loving adult man. A University of Michigan study of such girls concluded, " \* \* \* parental divorce has been associated with lower self-esteem, precocious sexual activity, greater delinquent-like behavior, and more difficulty establishing gratifying, lasting adult heterosexual relationships."

In Colorado, children in single-parent families are nearly five times more likely to be poor than children in two-parent families. Over eighteen percent of Colorado's children do not live with their fathers.

Coupled with powerful destructive trends and obsessions, today's children are bombarded with evil temptations placing fatherless children at grave risk. Our society's preoccupation with death, sex, and instant gratification has led to a culture in decay trivializing human life itself, degrading the dignity of the human person, and leaving children most vulnerable.

There is still, however, abundant cause for optimism in the legions of great American fathers like mine. Those faithfully accepting the responsibility of fatherhood earn our respect and praise as heroes in today's culture war.

Truly, genuine fathers regard all children as gifts from God. Children are the sacred living outward expression of conjugal love between men and women.

Relying equivalently upon their mothers, all children deserve devoted fathers who strive to raise their children in God's likeness. Accordingly, all devoted fathers deserve our profound admiration on Fathers Day and every day.

May God bestow His richest blessings upon them all.

#### MARKING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF GLADYS TANTAQUIDGEON

#### HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join every member of the Mohegan Tribe and countless residents across southeastern Connecticut in wishing a very happy 100th birthday to Gladys Tantaquidgeon. Gladys is

an extraordinary figure in the history of the Mohegan Tribe and something of an institution in our area of Connecticut.

Gladys was born June 15, 1899 and has lived in southeastern Connecticut for the past fifty years. She is an accomplished author, anthropologist and historian. She is widely recognized for her work researching and chronicling herbal medicines used by Native American tribes up and down the east coast of the United States. She is most well known in our area for helping to found, and maintaining for so many years, the Tantaquidgeon Museum—the oldest Indian-run museum in America today. Along with her father and brother, Gladys founded the museum in 1931. Over more than six decades, Gladys—often single-handedly—maintained and expanded the museum. Thanks to her hard work and dedication, thousands upon thousands of school children have learned about Native American and Mohegan history. I have attached an article about Gladys from the New London Day which I request be included following my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of residents across eastern Connecticut I want to thank Gladys Tantaquidgeon for a century of dedication to Native Americans across our country.

[From the New London Day, June 16, 1999]

CELEBRATING A LIFE LIVED FOR HER PEOPLE

(By Karen Kaplan)

Gladys Tantaquidgeon, one of Indian Country's most venerated members, a keeper of Mohegan tribal culture, longtime Mohegan Tribal Medicine Woman and a noted writer, curator and herbalist, celebrated her 100th birthday Tuesday with a gala party that gathered hundreds of friends, relatives, tribal members and dignitaries.

A crowd packed the tent set up late Tuesday morning on the grounds of Shantok, Village of Uncas, the former Fort Shantok State Park that is now part of the tribe's reservation.

Tantaquidgeon, wearing a powder blue suit and seated to the left of the podium at the front of the tent with her sister, Ruth, received gifts on a blanket set in front of her. Visitors said they were delighted to see Tantaquidgeon, as there had been a question of whether she would be well enough to attend.

Because of her frailty Tantaquidgeon came to the party for only an hour, and tribal officials did not permit visitors to get close. Tantaquidgeon is perhaps best known as curator of the Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum, the oldest Indian-operated museum in the country.

The Mohegan Tribal Council, led by tribal Chairman Roland J. Harris; the Mohegan Council of Elders, led by Carleton Eichelberg; and Chief G'Tinemong, Ralph Sturges, greeted Tantaquidgeon and guests upon their arrival and wished the guest of honor a happy birthday.

"These girls have been around a long time," said Sturges of the Tantaquidgeon sisters. "They're very, very close to the tribe and they helped me. . . . Gladys is a very steadfast friend of mine. Happy birthday, and we'll catch up to you someday, Gladys."

Led by M.C. Bethany Seidel, daughter of Tribal Vice Chairwoman Jayne Fawcett and sister of Tribal Historian Melissa Fawcett, everyone in the tent next read "Strawberry Moon," an original poem written in honor of the centenarian. Sidney J. Holbrook, Gov. John G. Rowland's co-chief of staff, read a proclamation from Rowland that declared

Tuesday to be Gladys Tantaquidgeon Day in the state, prompting a huge roar and lengthy applause from the crowd. "This is a great day for a great lady and a great people," he said.

Kenneth Reels, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council chairman, greeted Tantaquidgeon and wished her a happy birthday before a brief talk.

"Thank you for all you've done for our people, thank you for preserving the heritage of the Pequot people (and) keeping our ways alive," he said, presenting her with an eagle feather. "The eagle climbs the highest, and also represents balance, integrity and honor. We give this feather to you because that's what you represent to us."

The Mashantuckets also gave Tantaquidgeon a large maroon-and-cream quilt embroidered with the tribe's familiar fox-and-tree logo and different scenes from the Mashantucket Pequot reservation.

James A. Cunha Jr., tribal chief of the Paucatuck Eastern Pequots, greeted Tantaquidgeon and said he remembers his grandfather telling stories about her when he was young. Officials from other tribes also spoke, including the Narragansetts of Rhode Island; the Schaghticoke of central Connecticut; the Mashpee of Cape Cod and a representative from the Connecticut Indian Council.

Outside the ceremony, Harris said Tantaquidgeon exerted a tremendous, positive influence on him as he was growing up.

"If I learned anything, she taught me never to give up," he said. "You always do what's right. . . . The (Mohegan Tribal) nation is truly where it is because of her."

Jayne Fawcett, who lived with her aunts Gladys and Ruth while growing up during World War II, said she could not overestimate the role her aunt Gladys played in her life. Fawcett said Tantaquidgeon was a pioneer for women's rights and accomplishments long before they became a political issue.

Fawcett pointed out that Tantaquidgeon was the first American Indian to work for the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, and also was the curator of the federal Museum of Natural History and ran the federal Indian Arts and Crafts Board.

"She was responsible for working with Indian people and helping them to bring back (their) traditions," Fawcett said.

"She was one of the ones who refused to ride in the back of the bus," Fawcett said. "She appeared on national radio in the '30s, and her book on natural herbal remedies has become a standard. She fought to preserve traditional ceremonies and to preserve our old stories and the meaning of our ancient symbols. These are some of the things I think she will be remembered for."

"This was being done at a time when women simply didn't do these things. Women didn't go to college, and they didn't strike out on their own, let alone minority women," Fawcett added. "The encouragement she's given to so many tribal members, to seek higher education, myself included, has helped strengthen us as a nation. Certainly she has served as a strong role model in that respect."

Fawcett said Tantaquidgeon's dedication to the Mohegan tribe and its culture and history was so complete that she never married.

"Everything was focused on preserving and teaching—not only Mohegans and (other) Indians but non-Indians as well—about Mohegans," Fawcett said. "All of us felt for awhile that we might have been on the brink of extinction, and this made her work even more important."

Tantaquidgeon, whose accomplishments were recognized last year in a book, "Remarkable Women of the 20th Century: 100 Portraits of Achievement," played a major role in the Mohegans' successful bid for federal recognition, a status that made it possible for them to build a casino. Letters and documents she stored in Tupperware containers under her bed have been credited as important pieces of history that helped the tribe obtain federal recognition.

After working with the BIA and the Indian Crafts Board in the 1930s and '40s, she returned home in 1948 to help her family run the museum. She wrote a book, "Folk Medicine of the Delaware and Related Algonkian Indians," and has received numerous awards, including honorary doctorates from Yale University and the University of Connecticut.

---

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE JOHN  
LAVOO

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and pay tribute to the memory of John LaVoo who died in Vietnam during an ill-fated combat mission. Mr. LaVoo will, at long last, be laid to rest on July 19, 1999, in Arlington Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

Mr. LaVoo was a native of Pueblo and a graduate of the United States Naval Academy. On September 19, 1968, John and his navigator, Robert Holt, were killed when their plane crashed in North Vietnam. LaVoo was declared missing and was believed to be dead by the Marines, and in his honor, his widow, Rosalie Rusovick, commissioned the fabrication of a memorial anchor.

Over the years, the memorial, which has hung in the Orman Street entryway of Tabor Lutheran Church, has served as a special place for family and friends, and in the absence of a gravesite, has provided them with some solace. The memorial serves as a constant reminder of the life and sacrifice of John LaVoo and none pass through without learning of the history behind the anchor.

Recently, the remains of Mr. LaVoo were discovered through DNA evidence, and now his courage and sacrifice shall be honored through burial in Arlington. Though John will finally be put to rest in Virginia, his spirit will always rest in Pueblo where the anchor hangs in his memory. It is with this that I wish to pay my respects to Mr. John LaVoo, and I would like to express my gratitude to the LaVoo family for John's strength, patriotism, and service for our country.

---

TRIBUTE TO FATHER ALBERT  
JEROME

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 1999*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate Father Albert Je-

rome of St. Ann's church in Nashville, Illinois who celebrated his 40th Anniversary of ordination. When speaking of how he maintains his positive outlook on the world today, Father Jerome said, "... the answer to stop becoming a pessimist is to have a sense of humor. It has really been the mark of the greatest men ..."

Father Jerome has given and received a great deal of love to and from the dedicated members he has ministered for in his numerous stops over the past forty years. It would serve us all if he could minister for another forty years. However long his service is, it will be a service to the people of his ministry and the rest of the community.

---

HONORING THE OUTSTANDING  
GRADUATES OF P.S. 15. THE  
PATRICK F. DALY SCHOOL

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 1999*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating special graduates of the 12th Congressional District of New York. I am certain that this day marks the culmination of much effort and hard work which has lead and will lead them to continued success. In these times of uncertainty, limited resources, and random violence in our communities and schools, it is encouraging to know that they have overcome these obstacles and succeeded.

These students have learned that education is priceless. They understand that education is the tool to new opportunities and greater endeavors. Their success is not only a tribute to their strength but also to the support they have received from their parents and loved ones.

In closing, I encourage all my colleagues to support the education of the youth of America. With a solid education, today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders. And as we approach the new millennium, it is our responsibility to pave the road for this great Nation's future. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives I ask you to join me in congratulating the following outstanding students from P.S. 15, the Patrick F. Daly School: David Watson and Precious Scott.

---

TRIBUTE TO SADAKO OGATA

**HON. NICK LAMPSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 1999*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute and honor the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Commissioner, Mrs. Sadako Ogata.

Mrs. Ogata as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is responsible for protecting and finding solutions for refugees around the world. I would like to pay tribute to this organization today and to the work it is

doing to help refugees around the world, but particularly the Kosovars.

Mrs. Ogata's organization is now working with more than 850,000 refugees from Kosovo, most of whom are in Albania and Macedonia, two small countries, who are struggling to aid these refugees despite their own substantial economic problems. UNHCR is the lead UN agency working throughout the countries of the former Yugoslavia. It has been hard pressed to raise the funds and find the staff and management skills, diplomatic support and logistical support needed to handle such an enormous undertaking as the Kosovo refugee emergency. The organization has had its problems. It depends on voluntary contributions to fund its programs and must respond to emergencies by moving staff from other duties to the latest crisis and unfortunately in refugee emergencies, no one is ever sure just how many people will be forced to flee their homelands, or how long they will have to live under difficult conditions.

Recently, the UNHCR told donor governments that it still needed \$30 million to meet costs for the month of June (\$143 million required from March to June 30) and an additional \$246 million to continue its operations over the next 6 months.

UNHCR as an intergovernmental organization works with governments, other UN and international organizations and private voluntary organizations to aid the refugees. The U.S. has been one of UNHCR's major supporters both politically and financially. One of the important tasks that UNHCR must fulfill is to protect the lives and well being of refugees, particularly those who are vulnerable or at-risk because of physical or mental illness, insecurity, or separation from their families.

Despite all the big problems UNHCR faces in Kosovo, it can't forget the needs of individual families, like that of my constituents, the Halili family of San Leon, Texas whose relatives from Macedonia are safe today in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the tremendous contributions of UNHCR and to its hard working staff and the NGO partners in Albania and Macedonia, and in Washington, who were willing to put in extra hours and deal with lots of paperwork and overcome many obstacles to speed the evacuation and the suffering of the Halili family.

---

IN TRIBUTE TO OLGA M. JONES,  
RECIPIENT OF THE AWARD 1999  
DISTINGUISHED WOMEN OF  
NORTH CAROLINA

**HON. EVA M. CLAYTON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 1999*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, one hundred and twenty-six women were nominated to receive an award for 1999 Distinguished Women Of the Year. Seven were selected. Among the seven is one of my constituents, Olga M. Jones.

A Native North Carolinian, Mrs. Jones attended public schools in our state and graduated from the Community Hospital School of